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Description of two new species of the weevil genus *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825 from eastern Caucasus and Uzbekistan (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

Abstract - Two new species of the genus *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825, both related to *G. rostellum* (Herbst, 1795), are described. They are: *G. procerum* sp. n. (Daghestan, Azerbaijan) and *G. propinquum* sp. n. (Uzbekistan). Both species are characterized by the elongate elytra, which are about 1.5 times as long as wide, and the claws connate only in the basal quarter. In addition, *G. procerum* differs from *G. propinquum* in the tarsal segment 3 distinctly bilobed and distinctly wider than segment 2, the rostrum in male slightly longer and coarser in the apical third, the elytral vestiture sparser, especially in the apical third, and the integument at least partly black (entirely reddish brown in *G. propinquum*).

Key words: Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Mecinini, *Gymnetron*, new species.

Riassunto - Descrizione di due nuove specie del genere *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825 del Caucaso orientale e dell' Uzbekistan (Coleoptera, Curculionidae).

Vengono descritte due nuove specie appartenenti al genere *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825: *G. procerum* sp. n. (Daghestan, Azerbaijan) e *G. propinquum* sp. n. (Uzbekistan). Entrambe risultano strettamente correlate con *G. rostellum* (Herbst, 1795), ma sono caratterizzate da elitre più allungate (circa una volta e mezzo più lunghe che larghe) e da unghie saldate solo nel quarto basale. Inoltre *G. procerum* differisce da *G. propinquum* per il terzo segmento tarsale distintamente bilobato e distintamente più largo del secondo, per il rostro del maschio lievemente più lungo e con scultura più evidente nel terzo apicale, per il rivestimento elitrale meno denso soprattutto nel terzo apicale e per i tegumenti non completamente rossastri ma in parte neri.

Parole chiave: Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Mecinini, *Gymnetron*, nuove specie.

Introduction

Two new species of the weevil genus *Gymnetron* Schoenherr, 1825 (Curculioninae, Mecinini), related to *G. rostellum* (Herbst, 1795) (Reitter, 1907; Kostal, 1988), are described from the material of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, and other collections.

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List of abbreviations

NHMB = Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland

RCCM = Roberto Caldara collection, Milano, Italy

ZIBM = Zoological Institute of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, Minsk, Byelorussia

ZISP = Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia

E = Elytra

P = Pronotum

R = Rostrum

l = Length

w = Width

Gymnetron procerum sp. n. (Figs. 1, 3, 7-8)

Type series. Holotype: male, Russia, Republic of Daghestan, 5 km SW of Makhachkala, Agachaul, 26.IV.1990, leg. B. A. Korotyaev (ZISP). Thirteen paratypes: same data as holotype (1 male and 1 female, RCCM; 1 female, ZISP); same locality, 1.IV.2000, leg. M. Sh. Ismailova (4 males and 1 female, ZISP); Azerbaijan, Shemakhinskii Distr., Maraza-Khilmilli Village, 29.V.1986, leg. G. E. Davidian (1 male, ZISP); Azerbaijan, Maraza env., 28.IV.-9.V.1992, leg. A. Schamaev (1 female, NHMB); Azerbaijan, Talysh, Lerik, 21.IV.1.V.1986, leg. S. Saluk (2 males, ZIBM); Azerbaijan, Talysh, Lerik District, near Bilaband Village, 17.V.1987, leg. G. E. Davidian (1 female, ZISP).



Figs. 1-2 - Habitus of: 1) *Gymnetron procerum*; 2) *G. propinquum*.
Figg. 1-2 - Habitus di: 1) *Gymnetron procerum*; 2) *G. propinquum*.

Description. Male (holotype). Length 2.0 mm.

Body elongate, rather slender.

Rostrum black with reddish apex, moderately elongate (Rl/Rw 3.62; Rl/Pl 0.95), slightly flattened dorsoventrally; in lateral view subparallel-sided, weakly curved at base and almost straight in apical 1/2, slightly narrowed in apical 1/3 (Fig. 7); in dorsal view sides slightly tapering from base to apex, more or less protruding near antennal insertion, scrobe slightly visible, rather weakly striately punctate to apex proximity, with deeper and wider median sulcus; in basal 1/2 covered with sparse, recumbent to semi-erect, short (l/w 3-4), subelliptical, to long (l/w 5-7), seta-like, whitish scales. Frons slightly narrower than rostrum at base, without fovea. Eyes weakly convex, with hind margin slightly protruding above head capsule surface. Antennae reddish with club dark brown, inserted just behind middle of rostrum; scape 4.5 times as long as wide, funicle slightly longer than scape, with segment 1 1.2 times as long as wide, distinctly more robust and 1.5 times as long as segment 2, the latter slightly longer than wide; segments 3-5 moderately and gradually becoming more transverse; club ovate, with segment 1 nearly glabrous in basal 1/2.

Pronotum black, densely and irregularly punctate, with intervals between punctures narrow, smooth and shiny, visible between moderately dense, recumbent to erect, long (l/w 8-12), seta-like, whitish scales; moderately transverse (Pw/Pl 1.36), weakly rounded at sides, widest near middle, weakly convex on disc, with moderately pronounced pre-apical constriction.

Elytra black with interstriae 1 (in apical 1/2), 6 and 8 (entirely) and 9 and 10 (in apical 1/3) reddish; elongate (El/Ew 1.53), subrectangular, distinctly wider than pronotum (Ew/Pw 1.42), shallowly concave at basal margin, moderately convex on disc; interstriae clearly visible between sparse, semi-erect, seta-like, whitish scales, arranged in one regular row; length of scales equal to width of interstriae; striae clearly visible, as wide as 1/2 of interstriae, each with a series of scales slightly shorter and narrower than those on interstriae.

Legs rather slender, covered with sparse, semi-erect to erect, seta-like, whitish scales, length of which slightly less than width of tibia; femora blackish, clavate, unarmed; tibiae reddish, rather slender, with posteroapical edge of protibiae not projecting outwards, outer margin of protibiae nearly rectangular at apex, that of metatibiae not protruding outwards; unci black, all of equal length; tarsi brown, with segment 1 1.5 times as long as wide, segment 2 nearly as long as wide, segment 3 bilobed and distinctly wider than segment 2; claw-segment as long as segments 1-3 combined; claws dark brown, of equal length, connate only at basal 1/4 (Fig. 6).

Mesosternal process subtriangular, narrower than 1/2 of coxa. Metasternum black, flat in middle, covered with sparse, seta-like, whitish scales. Mesepimera covered with moderately dense, long, seta-like, whitish scales. Mesepisterna and metepisterna covered with dense, wide, plumose, whitish scales and sparse, long scales (apical 1/2 of metepisterna). Abdomen black, with moderately dense and regular punctation clearly visible between sparse, recumbent to subrecumbent, elongate, seta-like, whitish scales; ventrites 1 and 2 moderately concave medially; length of ventrites 1 and 2 1.80 times that of ventrites 3 and 4; tergite VI smooth and shiny, sparsely punctate; pygidium moderately densely punctate.

Aedeagus as in Fig. 3.

Female. Similar to male except rostrum slightly longer (Rl/Rw 3.83; Rl/Pl 1.00), moderately curved in lateral view (Fig. 8), smooth and shiny in apical 1/3, antennae inserted just before middle of rostrum, tibial unci slightly smaller.

Variability. Length 1.8-2.4 mm. Sides of pronotum sometimes subparallel-sided in basal 1/2. Elytra sometimes nearly completely black except for a portion of interstriae 6 and 8. Pubescence on elytra sometimes formed partly, or mostly, of yellow scales; in some specimens scales much longer, about 1.5 times as long as width of elytral interstriae, especially those in apical 1/3 of elytral suture, recurved at base and straight in apical 2/3 of their length.

Etymology. The name is a Latin adjective, meaning "elongate, slender", and refers to the body shape of the species.

Comparative notes. This species appears closely related to *G. rostellum*, with which it shares the general habitus, the shape of the aedeagus and the reddish tibiae. For differences see comparative notes on the succeeding species.

Distribution. Eastern Caucasus (Daghestan, Azerbaijan).

Gymnetron propinquum sp. n. (Figs. 2, 4, 9)

Type series. Holotype: male, Uzbekistan, 40 km SE of Sherabad, eastern slope of Kughitangtau Mt. Range, 28.IV.1984, leg. T. N. Vereschagina (ZISP).

Description. Male (holotype). Length 2.1 mm.

Body elongate, rather slender.

Rostrum reddish, moderately elongate (Rl/Rw 3.11; Rl/Pl 0.87); in lateral view subparallel-sided, weakly curved, of equal width from base to apex (Fig. 9); in dorsal view sides subparallel from base to apex, scrobe moderately visible, moderately densely striately punctate in basal 2/3, with deeper and wider median sulcus, nearly smooth in apical 1/3; in basal 1/2 covered with moderately dense, recumbent to semi-erect, long (l/w 6-10), seta-like, sericeous whitish scales. Frons slightly narrower than rostrum at base, without fovea. Eyes weakly convex. Antennae reddish with club blackish brown, inserted just behind middle of rostrum; scape 4.5 times as long as wide, funicle slightly longer than scape, with segment 1 1.2 times as long as wide, distinctly more robust and 1.2 times as long as segment 2, the latter nearly as long as wide; segments 3 and 4 moderately transverse, segment 5 distinctly transverse; club ovate, with segment 1 nearly glabrous in basal 1/2.

Pronotum black, densely and irregularly punctate, with intervals between punctures narrow, moderately rugulose and mat, visible between moderately dense, recumbent to semi-erect, long (l/w 8-12), seta-like, sericeous whitish scales; moderately transverse (Pw/Pl 1.43), moderately rounded at sides, widest at basal 1/3, distinctly convex on disc, with moderately pronounced pre-apical constriction.

Elytra reddish, elongate (El/Ew 1.40), subrectangular, distinctly wider than pronotum (Ew/Pw 1.48), shallowly concave at basal margin, moderately convex on disc; interstriae slightly visible between moderately dense, semi-erect, seta-like, silvery and golden whitish scales; length of the latter slightly greater than width of interstria; scales arranged in one nearly regular row in basal 2/3 and denser, in irregular rows in apical 1/3; striae clearly visible, as wide as 1/2 of interstriae, each with a series of scales distinctly shorter and narrower than those on interstriae.



Figs. 3-11 - 3) *Gymnetron procerum*, aedeagus in dorsal and lateral view; 4) *G. propinquum*, aedeagus in dorsal and lateral view; 5) *G. rostellum*, claws; 6) *G. procerum*, claws; 7-8) *G. procerum*, rostrum in lateral view: 7) male, 8) female; 9) *G. propinquum*, rostrum in lateral view, male; 10-11) *G. rostellum*, rostrum in lateral view: 10) male, 11) female.

Figg. 3-11 - 3) *Gymnetron procerum*, edeago in visione dorsale e laterale; 4) *G. propinquum*, edeago in visione dorsale e laterale; 5) *G. rostellum*, unghie; 6) *G. procerum*, unghie; 7-8) *G. procerum*, rostro in visione laterale: 7) maschio, 8) femmina; 9) *G. propinquum*, rostro in visione laterale, maschio; 10-11) *G. rostellum*, rostro in visione laterale: 10) maschio, 11) femmina.

Legs rather slender, covered with sparse, semi-erect to erect, seta-like, whitish scales, length of which slightly less than width of tibia; femora reddish, clavate, unarmed; tibiae reddish, rather slender; posteroapical edge of protibia not projecting outwards, outer margin of protibia nearly rectangular at apex, that of metatibia not protruding outwards; unci black, all of equal length; tarsi reddish, with segment 1 1.5 times as long as wide, segment 2 nearly as long as wide, segment 3 weakly bilobed and slightly wider than segment 2, claw-segment as long as segments 1-3 combined; claws dark brown, of equal length, connate only at basal 1/4 (as in Fig. 6).

Mesosternal process subtriangular, narrower than 1/2 of coxa. Metasternum black, flat in middle, covered with sparse, seta-like, whitish scales. Mesepimera covered with moderately dense, long, seta-like, whitish scales. Mesepisterna and metepisterna covered with dense, wide, plumose, whitish scales and sparse, long scales (on apical 1/2 of metepisterna). Abdomen black, with punctures moderately dense and regular and clearly visible between sparse, recumbent to subrecumbent, elongate, seta-like, whitish scales; ventrites 1 and 2 moderately concave medially; length of ventrites 1 and 2 1.95 times that of ventrites 3 and 4; tergite VI smooth and shiny, sparsely punctate; pygidium moderately densely punctate.

Aedeagus as in Fig. 4.

Female. Unknown.

Etymology. The Latin adjective means "close, similar" and refers to the strong similarity of the new species with *G. procerum*.

Comparative notes. *Gymnetron propinquum* is closely related to *G. procerum* and *G. rostellum*. These three species can be distinguished as follows:

1. Elytra short (El/Ew 1.30-1.37); claws connate in basal 1/2 (Fig. 5); rostrum moderately curved in lateral view (Figs. 10-11); size smaller on average (length 1.6-2.0 mm) *G. rostellum*
 - Elytra elongate (El/Ew 1.50-1.58); claws connate in basal 1/4 (Fig. 6); rostrum less curved in lateral view (Figs. 7-9); size larger on average (length 1.9-2.4 mm)..... 2
2. Tarsal segment 3 distinctly bilobed and distinctly wider than segment 2; rostrum in male slightly longer (Fig. 7) and coarse in apical 1/3; elytral vestiture sparser, especially in apical 1/3; elytra black with reddish interstriae 6, 8 and apices; femora blackish, tibiae reddish and tarsi brown *G. procerum*
 - Tarsal segment 3 only weakly bilobed and slightly wider than segment 2; rostrum in male slightly shorter (Fig. 9) and nearly smooth in apical 1/3; elytral vestiture denser, especially in apical 1/3; elytra and legs entirely reddish *G. propinquum*

Distribution. Uzbekistan.

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